



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Busy Road Work Season Gets Under Way in Eugene

Road work ahead. That's becoming a very common sign around town as Eugene Public Works Department starts repairing more than 80 streets around town.

Money from Eugene's local gas tax combined with voter-approved bond funds and other sources of revenue add up to one of the busiest road repair summers in years. If everything goes as scheduled, the City of Eugene will spend more than \$30 million on 25 major Eugene road repair and improvement projects in 2009. All told, that would fix almost 80 lane miles on more than 80 city streets (to put that in perspective, Eugene has about 1,300 lane miles of streets, and the total cost of repairing all the streets in town is estimated at more than \$170 million).

"Even though we have a long way to go, we're starting to make significant progress on the backlog of major street repairs," said Public Works Director Kurt Corey. "But we can't declare victory yet because we still have to meet the challenge of funding our ongoing street operations and maintenance."

One of the mainstays for road repair funding is Eugene's 5-cent-per-gallon local fuel tax. In 2009, the local gas tax, coupled with a portion of the charges paid by new development for transportation system impacts and more than \$1 million in federal highway funds, will pay for nearly \$7.5 million in asphalt paving repairs. That includes slurry seals on more than 60 streets in six areas around town plus major overlays on a dozen streets: Sixth Avenue (High to Washington), Seventh Avenue (High to Washington), 11th Avenue (Garfield to Tyinn), Bertelsen (11th to 18th), Country Club (Willagillespie to Southwood), Crescent (Shadowview to Coburg), Danebo (Roya to -11th), Fox Hollow (E. Amazon to Donald), McKinley (Fifth to 11th), Royal (Waite to Terry), Seneca (Roosevelt to Seventh Place), and Roosevelt (Maple to Beltline).

The work on Roosevelt began last fall and is wrapping up this spring. Work on Royal and Danebo avenues began this week, with major construction scheduled to start next week.

(more)

Eugene voters in November 2008 approved a \$35.9 million bond measure to fix 32 streets and three miles of offstreet bike and pedestrian paths. The first four bond measure projects, estimated to cost a total of about \$3 million, will be done this summer. The projects are: Bailey Hill Road (18th to Bertelsen), Goodpasture (Norkenzie to Delta Highway), Railroad (Van Buren to Chambers), and the Amazon Path (19th to 31st avenues). The first bond measure project will likely be the Bailey Hill Road reconstruction, which tentatively is scheduled to begin in late June.

The Eugene City Council last spring budgeted \$1 million from the City's general fund for increased street repair services in the fiscal year that ends June 30. Most of those funds were spent last fall; however, two projects will be done this spring: Riverview (16th to Floral Hill plus a small portion of Floral Hill), and Cross Street (Garfield to Cleveland).

Another way streets are repaired is by improving them to City standards. Street improvement projects are funded, in part, by assessments paid by abutting property owners. Three street improvement projects are proposed for 2009. Improvements to Maple Street (Elmira to Roosevelt) and Elmira Road (Bertelsen to Maple) have been approved by the city council, and work is scheduled to begin in mid-June. The council also is scheduled to consider extending Chad Drive from Old Coburg Road to Game Farm Road and to improve three streets (Crest, Storey, Friendly) in the Crest Drive area. Total cost of constructing these improvement projects is estimated at almost \$11 million.

Rounding out the list are three projects that don't use city road funds but are part of, or have an impact on, the city's transportation system. Federal stimulus funds will help pay for constructing a new bicycle-pedestrian bridge over Delta Highway and making improvements in the parking area around Eugene Train Depot. Local stormwater funds will pay for enhancing a portion of upper Amazon Creek, which will require periodic closures of East Amazon Drive over a one-month period. These three projects total almost \$8 million.

Travelers who want to avoid street and lane closures, detours and traffic delays can get information in a number of ways.

Call the metro roadwork hotline at 541-984-8484 for weekly updates on area road projects.

Go to www.eugene-or.gov/pw for road project updates and other "traffic relief" information.

For the most current updates, go to [Twitter.com/EugenePW](https://twitter.com/EugenePW).

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